

Ex-South African leader to speak in Salem

President who helped dismantle apartheid will address diversity

By K. WILLIAMS BROWN
Statesman Journal

The Medical Foundation of Marion and Polk Counties has revealed the big name who will anchor their sixth annual fundraiser, and it is a doozy.

Frederik Willem de Klerk is the former president of South Africa who was

instrumental in dismantling apartheid. He also freed Nelson Mandela, with whom he later would share the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize.

His speech, titled "The Challenge of the Century: Managing Diversity," will explore conflicts rooted in ethnic, religious and cultural differences and how those conflicts apply not only to countries but to states and even small towns.

"In a lot of ways, he represents some

See Speaker, 2A



F.W. de Klerk

If you go

WHAT: A talk with Frederik Willem de Klerk, a former president of South Africa and the winner of the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. April 30.

WHERE: The Historic Elsinore Theatre.

WHY: De Klerk will speak at the annual fundraiser for the MedAssist and Project Access

programs of the Medical Foundation of Marion and Polk Counties.

TICKETS: Range from \$20 to \$75 and will go on sale Jan. 11. They can be purchased at the box office of the Historic Elsinore Theatre, 170 High St. SE, or through TicketsWest. Go to www.ticketswest.com or call (800) 992-8499.

FOR INFORMATION: Call the Elsinore at (503) 375-3574.

Speaker

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real change in the world," said Dean Larsen, the secretary/treasurer for the Medical Foundation of Marion and Polk Counties. "You're talking about someone that's been an instrument of change in his own country as well as around the world."

James Earl Jones originally was supposed to headline the benefit, but he had to cancel because of scheduling conflicts.

"It was really disappointing," Larsen said. "We were all excited and ready for him to come ... and unfortunately, it just wasn't gonna come to pass."

The benefit always brings a huge name to Salem; last year's brought Sarah, Duchess of York

(better known as Fergie). Past speakers have included Barbara Bush and Jane Goodall.

The money raised goes toward the Medical Foundation of Marion and Polk Counties, which runs programs to help low-income residents get access to medical treatment and prescription medicines for free. Last year's event raised nearly \$150,000.

Tickets will go on sale Jan. 11 and will range in price from \$20 to \$75.

Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the program will begin at 6:30 p.m. April 30 at the Historic Elsinore Theatre.

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